

A Pedagogy of Listening

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As a jazz musician, I have learned to listen intently and with passion when a student is speaking or playing. There is a difference between listening and comprehending. I have listened to my wife speak the Visayan dialect for years. I love the tones and the expressions, but I only “understand” a few phrases.

I believe the pedagogy for learning to listen to music may be similar to learning to listen to the spoken word. Repeat what the person is saying in your mind’s ear while they are speaking. Practice shutting down the personal voice that is composing a response, and listen only to the words the person is speaking. Let the feeling of the words and dialect come into your heart and soul. Move personal thoughts toward what makes that person unique and beautiful. **Respect what makes them, them.** Learn to love every individual regardless of agreeing or not. Let the feeling of the “music” of the person come into your heart without analyzing or judging.



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